

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1 and 7-10 are currently pending in this application, of which claims 1, 7, and 10 are independent. In the Final Office Action dated July 5, 2006, claims 1 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and claims 1 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In response to the Final Office Action and in order to facilitate the allowance of this application, claims 1 and 7-9 are canceled without prejudice. Claim 10 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and is now in allowable form.

Specifically, a telephonic interview was conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on August 22, 2006, with regard to the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended during the interview. The Examiner suggested that Applicants delete the claim language "except a front and back faces disposed in the length direction of the fastener tape" from claim 10. Applicants submit that claim 10 has been amended per the Examiner's suggestion and is now definite and allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing the sole pending claim 10 in condition for allowance.

Applicants submit that the proposed amendment do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.


In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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